

Thursday, February 12, 2004

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LSU SHREVEPORT

the Almagest

Volume 45, Issue 3

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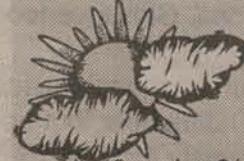
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WEEKLY WEATHER

Today:

Hi: 47

Lo: 29



Friday:

Partly Cloudy

Hi: 48

Lo: 31

Saturday:

Partly Cloudy

Hi: 62

Lo: 34

Sunday:

Mostly Sunny

Hi: 63

Lo: 38

Monday:

Few Showers

Hi: 61

Lo: 31

Tuesday:

Rain

Hi: 57

Lo: 39

Wednesday:

Partly Cloudy

Hi: 54

Lo: 31

Forum discusses dangers of drug abuse

BY LAURIE DILULIO

AND NIKKI MORA

Photographs of a brain scan from a 22-year-old woman who was a regular user of ecstasy showed brain tissue loss equivalent to a 70-year-old. The Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Attorney's Office showed these and other photographs to warn students of the dangers and risks of drug abuse at a panel discussion in the UC theater.

The panel, held on Thursday, Feb. 5, also aimed to educate students about the dangers of club drugs, such as ecstasy and GHB.

Agents from the DEA, a Shreveport police officer, an emergency room doctor, the director of the Louisiana poison control center and a drug trafficking offender were all members of the panel. A display table was set up outside the UC The-

ater with several informational handouts and complementary canvas bags sporting their theme, "Dancing with Darkness."

The public forum began with a Microsoft Power Point presentation with statistics about club drugs and included photographs of the effects of using them.

According to the panel, many young people have erroneous information when it comes to the long-term effects of club drugs, such as ecstasy. These effects include depression, brain disorders, learning disabilities, anxiety and loss of serotonin.

Photographs documented the dramatic loss of serotonin in a monkey's brain seven years after having had ecstasy only four times.

The panel spoke of the seriousness of GHB and other predatory drugs that circulate in clubs and at parties. These drugs

can be slipped into an unsuspecting person's drink, causing memory loss in the victim and leaving the person susceptible to sexual assault.

A speech given by a convicted drug trafficker evoked an emotional response from the audience.

"Bruce" began smoking marijuana in high school and branched out to other drugs when he entered college. He justified his use because it was only occasional.

He graduated from college in 2002 with a double major and a high GPA. However, after college his involvement increased and he was arrested for drug trafficking in 2003.

He now faces a mandatory sentencing of three to five years.

"The biggest thing I want (students) to know is that your actions affect everyone around you," said Bruce. "I can handle the punishment, but I can't handle the punishment that has

been brought upon my family."

Bruce speaks at the drug panels to try and help get the message out about the dangers of drug use and trafficking, and the punishments are severe. Bruce will be sentenced on March 1.

Robert Adams, a senior general studies major, was affected by Bruce's story.

"It took a lot of courage for him to talk like that," said Adams. "He had a lot going for him—one mistake. He's got 3 to 5 yrs."

Adams transferred to LSUS this semester after having attended school at LSU-BR for the past three-and-a-half years. According to Adams, drugs on campus are much more common in Baton Rouge.

"It's bad," he said. "Baton Rouge is totally different from here. There is so much more drug trafficking from Houston,

SEE DRUG PANEL PAGE 7

Buying books online cheapest alternative



This history book sells for \$91.90 in the LSUS bookstore, but costs only \$78.67 online at <http://www.TextbookX.com>.

BY BRANDI REGISTER

Every semester students spend hundreds of dollars on textbooks at their campus bookstore. However, online bookstores have become increasingly popular with college students, because they advertise much cheaper prices on textbooks.

SEE BOOK PRICES PAGE 3

Washington program takes students outside classroom



The capitol is only one of the historical sights that the participants of the Washington semester program visit.

BY SARA SULLIVAN

"It's the least expensive Washington Semester in the nation," said Dr. William D. Pederson, executive director of the American Studies Washington Semester. "The point is to get you outside the classroom to see the Washington political and cultural environment

with your own eyes."

For the 21st year, LSUS will offer a chance to live in Washington, D.C. while earning up to six credit hours. The semester is scheduled between the end of spring semester and the start of summer Term I. It is open to all majors, regardless of year in school or home campus.

The LSUS American Studies Washington Semester is the first independent Washington Semester at a public college or university in the South.

It is a two-part program. The first part, or first semester, is a cultural introduction to Washington,

SEE WASHINGTON PAGE 8

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Corrections

No corrections this week.

Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials.

The Almagest is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times.

Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Candice Leone, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and email address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

By this point, I am probably beating a dead horse, but I feel obligated to respond. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion; I understand that, but come on people. This entire situation is ridiculous! I am, in fact, referring to the December article published by the Almagest about Mr. Maxie Foster making accusations that Dr. Vincent Marsala is a racist. Does anyone but me find it odd that the meeting where Dr. Marsala made these alleged comments was held in October and that the Almagest waited until the very last issue of the semester to print the article? Now, with a story of this importance you cannot tell me that it took over a month for the article to be completed. That is preposterous! It was planned that way to leave everyone with a bad taste in the mouth as they left for semester break.

Now, I do not know Mr. Foster personally, but I have known Dr. Marsala my whole life. The man is sensitive to all people and their plight. A refined character he has in abundance. With this high office comes a sense of duty and responsibility which he has upheld. He is also a compassionate individual. He has been Chancellor since 1995 serving as Chair, Dean and Chancellor and holds the rank of Professor. Can you honestly tell me the only reason we have five Black professors is because he is our Chancellor? Can you tell me in all these years if he were in fact racist someone would not have said something by now? He knows this University, and he knows the students. No, he is not always in his office, but this is not high school. The head of this University has meetings and functions to attend, and a monstrous amount of work to keep this University going. This is why the grievance policy is in place. If Dr. Marsala says Mr. Foster's issues were addressed, then I believe they were. When you do not like something's outcome, do you bend the truth? For example, when a test does not come out like you anticipated, do you blame the teacher?

It is my understanding that Mr. Foster opposed Dr. Marsala becoming Chancellor and has had a personal grudge against him since he took office. I was informed of the so-called "racial comments" made at the October meeting, and in no way could I misconstrue these comments as racist or inappropriate. I have also spoken to several Black students, and they did not find them racist either. This makes me think my opinion is in the majority.

As for the comments made by Pamela Hamilton in the letter to the editor in the January 29th edition of the Almagest, she states that someone who is not racist should not be defensive and argue he isn't. The comments made by Mr. Foster and the Almagest were slanderous, and Dr. Marsala had every right to defend himself. Has Ms. Hamilton also heard the phrase, "Silence gives consent"? How would you feel if your Chancellor had remained mum about these accusations? He had every right to print a rebuttal, and Mr. Foster did not deserve an apology.

I am proud of our Chancellor for his tact and his dedication to this University and proud he stood up for himself. Personally, I would have sued the Almagest and Mr. Foster for slander. I am proud to be a student under Dr. Marsala's term. We are lucky to have such an honest man as our top administrator.

Melissa Twohig Mjaseth, Senior
Criminal Justice Major

From the Editor

Valentine's Day is here again, and stressed girls everywhere are running around struggling to find the perfect gift for their boyfriends. Guys aren't the easiest people to buy for—especially on a day centered solely around hearts, flowers and emotion. Most guys get uncomfortable about romance, so why should we have to kill ourselves searching for a present they probably don't even care about getting anyway?

You can only give the bottle-of-cologne-and-boxer gift so many times before it gets old. So what else is left? Girls are easy to buy for—you can't go wrong with jewelry, chocolate and flowers. Anything romantic and cliché. Girls love food and flowers.

So this year I bought my boyfriend the male version of chocolate and roses—sports stuff and beer. (Well, it's actually an ice chest that holds beer, but he can fill it up himself.) It's nice to be sweet, but I think romance is mostly for girls.

I just hope he agrees with me.

The Almagest letters policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your classification and major. Letters should be submitted to *the Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

The Almagest reserves the right to edit all letters.

African-American literature class offered after five-year absence

BY PAMELA HAMILTON

Finding African-American courses at LSUS can be a difficult task for students, but this spring a survey in "Afro-American" Literature, listed as English 308 in the online class schedule, is being offered.

For the English department, teaching the course is rare.

"It was taught five years ago," said Dr. Larry Anderson, chairman of the English department. Anderson said the catalogue has listed the course since before he arrived at LSUS 15 years ago, but it isn't offered regularly.

The department's first priority, Anderson said, is to offer courses required by the curriculum for its majors. The curriculum, which focuses primarily on British and American literature, was established about 30 years ago. African-American authors are taught in modern literature courses, Anderson said, and an African-American literature course is not a requirement of the LSUS curriculum that English majors must meet.

Instead of requiring the course, the African-American literature class is offered to all majors by the English department as an elective. The 300-level course explores the works of Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, Toni Morrison and other African-American authors. Dr. Stephen C. Brennan, professor of English, teaches the class.

The English curriculum, Anderson said, is a determining factor in hiring practices for the department and also determines the specific areas of expertise needed. Although Brennan's area of expertise is in American literature with an emphasis on late 19th and early 20th century literature and he has no formal background in African-American studies, Anderson said that Brennan is qualified to teach the class.

"Someone trained in literary studies," Anderson said, "can

conduct a literature course."

Lonnie McCray, the only African-American instructor in the English department, agrees. Brennan, he said, is qualified to teach critical analysis.

"Most students," McCray said, "don't base taking a class on whether or not the teacher can teach the class, but on whether or not they can make a connection with the teacher."

Sammy Bell, an African-American sophomore English major, is enrolled in the literature course.

[Brennan] puts forth a noble effort to connect with his students," she said, "but naturally, in my opinion, slavery and racism are different for blacks and whites. I applaud him on his effort to connect with us."

On the first day of class, Brennan said, he expressed to his students his concerns about being white and dealing with racial issues.

"I'm a human being," he said. "We all share universal feelings. I know what it's like to feel outrage and suffer humiliation." Brennan said he will use his instincts and his training to conduct the class.

Only nine students signed

"The English curriculum is a little behind the times in the growing interests of ethnic studies, gender studies and studies dealing with sexual orientation."

—Dr. Larry Anderson

English department chair

up for the course and of those nine, Brennan said, a couple of students had not been in class for a week at press time.

Anderson was surprised at the small amount of interest in the class displayed by the students. He said five years ago there were 22 students.

Lack of advertising may have played a role in the decline of enrollment for the class, but Brennan agreed that the fact that he is a white man teaching

LSUS student runs for spot in Republican committee

BY ERIC PULSIFER

An LSUS student is running for a seat in the Republican State Central Committee.

Senior Gary T. Rushworth Jr., political science major, is only 23 years old but hopes to obtain a seat in the March 9 election, just months before he graduates.

In the *Monroe News-Star*, Pat Brister, chairwoman of the Louisiana Republican Party, said the state central committee is made up of Republicans from across the state that form policy and pass rules for the Republican party of Louisiana.

If elected, Rushworth would represent the district consisting of the LSUS area and the apartments on Millicent Way during his four-year term.

Rushworth will be up against a man nearly twice his senior, Doug Schurling, whom he once helped campaign for a seat in the Louisiana Senate.

The *(Shreveport) Times* selected Schurling, his sole competitor, as one of their picks for the Shreveport City Council back in 2002.

Despite his limited budget for campaigning, Rushworth re-

mains positive and said he's running not only to get elected, but for the experience and the fun of it.

"I have a walk list and plan to go door to door soon. I figure I

"For me, it's a way in. I can learn how to campaign better and see what it's like for myself."

Gary Rushworth

Senior, Political Science

have a 50/50 chance of winning," Rushworth said.

Rushworth said that it's not uncommon for younger people to run for the committee.

"I'm one of the youngest to run around here, but I wouldn't be the youngest," Rushworth said.

Rushworth said Boys State, a program that attempts to educate youth about governmental and civic responsibilities, is responsible for getting him interested in politics. As a junior in high school Rushworth said seeing his name preceded by the title "Senator" at a Boys State

Senate mock session ignited his interest. Eventually, Rushworth said he would like to be a Louisiana Senator.

"I have real goals and I want to see them accomplished. Ever since Boys State, that's been it," said Rushworth.

After years of interest and volunteering in politics, Rushworth said he felt it's time he ran for himself.

"For me, it's a way in. I can learn how to campaign better and see what it's like for myself."

Rushworth said that friends and faculty at LSUS have helped tremendously along the way by encouraging him and supporting his cause.

"My friends were all excited to see that instead of just talking about change, we could actually do something," said Rushworth.

Rushworth said that regardless of political preference or how students choose to vote, he hopes that they will get actively involved in the party of their choice.

"People are always looking for volunteers, and that opens doors," he said.

"It shows you want to make a difference in something," he said.

BOOK PRICES

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to have hurt the campus bookstore or other bookstores in Shreveport.

"Our overall sales have been good," said Cindy Armstrong, director of the LSUS bookstore. "Students come back to us because of the hassle of returning or selling books online."

Campus Corner, a bookstore on Youree Drive across the street from LSUS, provides books for Northwestern Nursing, BPCC, Louisiana Tech at Barksdale and LSUS.

"This has been our best semester ever," said Lisa McCarey, manager of Campus Corner. "We well exceeded our expectations for LSUS sales."

Many of the books required for LSUS students are available online; however books such as the Biology lab manual for Biology 101/120 (written by LSUS professors) and the "Guide to Understanding Plagiarism" are available only at the LSUS bookstore.

Some students do not use the online book stores because they do not want to wait for their books

to be shipped to them, nor do they want to wait for their buy-back money at the end of the semester.

"I go to the bookstore on campus, and most of my books are very expensive," said Jessica Scurlock, a senior elementary education major. "I have never used online (book sales), because it takes too long, and I always wait until the last minute."

In a recent article of USA Today the author writes, "... some public university students will spend nearly \$900 this year on textbooks, which represents almost 20 percent of the national average tuition and fees for in-state students at public four-year universities."

According to the article, Congress has also taken notice of the rise in book prices. In October, Senator Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., proposed that \$1,000 of textbook costs be made tax deductible. In November, Representative David Wu, D-Ore., proposed that investigators look into why textbook prices have increased.

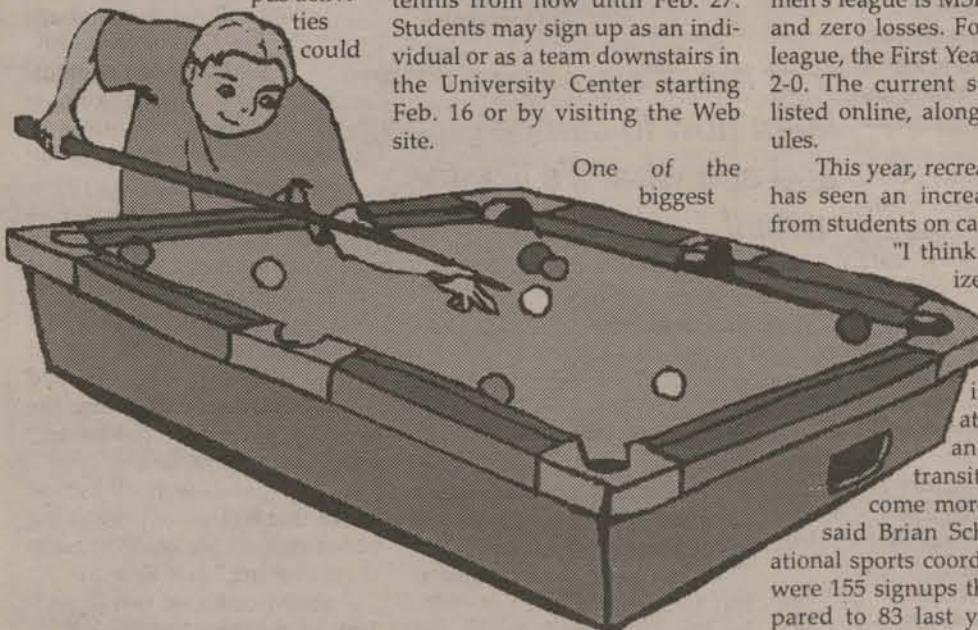
Although online bookstores boast cheaper prices, it seems the majority of students continue to buy their books on campus.

SPORTS

Intramurals offer sports, campus involvement

BY PRISCILLA TURNER

Students who love sports and want to get involved in campus activities could



find a home in Recreational Sports. Recreational Sports, also known as Intramurals, is holding signups for softball, soccer and tennis from now until Feb. 27. Students may sign up as an individual or as a team downstairs in the University Center starting Feb. 16 or by visiting the Web site.

One of the biggest

recreational sports leagues is basketball. The basketball season for recreational sports began Jan. 27. The current leader in the men's league is MSI, with 4 wins and zero losses. For the Co-Rec league, the First Year Ballers lead 2-0. The current standings are listed online, along with schedules.

This year, recreational sports has seen an increased interest from students on campus.

"I think we reorganized intramural sports and made a transition into recreational sports, and in that transition it has become more organized," said Brian Schmidt, recreational sports coordinator. There were 155 signups this year compared to 83 last year. Schmidt

feels this boom in signups is due to word of mouth by the students.

"Word is going around," said Schmidt. "Students are starting to seek out other students for their teams."

Chris Jones, supervisor for Recreational Sports, said he feels that recreational sports has become more organized and fun for the participants.

A rec sports class that is popular with the students this semester is Pilates. Pilates classes are on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and on Thursdays at 5 p.m. in the HPE Building. The class is almost at capacity, but signups are still going on. The class will last

until around mid-semester, depending on student turnout.

"People should join recreational sports because it is fun and we make sure that we do our best to ensure a good atmosphere for not only the players, but the spectators too," said Jones.

There will also be a Billiards tournament on Feb. 10, 12, 17 and 19. The championship will be on Feb. 26 during common hour. Stop by and see the action.

For more information about any of the recreational sports, contact Schmidt at 797-5348 or visit the Web site at <http://www.lsus.edu/osa/recsports.htm>.

WANNA WRITE?

We need reporters.

Come by Bronson Hall Room 344

Call 797-5328

or

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Pilot baseball opens new season with alumni game, ring ceremony

BY NIKKI BUTLER

The LSUS Pilots opened their baseball season by hosting their first alumni game Friday, Feb. 6. Thirty-three alumni players came back to play against the current Pilots in hopes of proving that they could still keep up with the younger players. Instead, the Pilots beat the alumni with a score of 22-2.

Ian Deiron, class of 2002, and Will Ward, class of 1993, scored the two runs for the alumni team. Despite their loss, the alumni had enough spirit to keep up the excitement in the game.

Doug Robinson, LSUS athletic director and head coach of the Pilots from 1991-1995, coached the alumni team. He was thrilled to be a part of the action.

"When we scored the first one, it was like we won," said Robinson. "Our whole thing was that we just hoped to score a run. It was a lot of fun and the alumni really enjoyed themselves."

-Doug Robinson
LSUS athletic director & alumni team coach

"When we scored the first one, it was like we won," said Robinson. "Our whole thing was that we just hoped to score a run. It was a lot of fun and the alumni really enjoyed themselves."

Many alumni players have already called Robinson expressing what a great time they had and suggested for it to become an annual event.

"Their only request was that we play the game in warmer weather next time," said Robinson.

The Pilots were also excited about playing the

alumni.

"It was a great turnout," said Jonathan Duprice. "It gave us a chance to show the old players what a great team we have now."

After the game, the Pilots, alumni, friends and family all gathered in the Port to eat hamburgers and hang out. They also held a tailgate party Saturday afternoon before the girl's basketball game.

On Saturday night, the alumni got to be a part of a special ceremony held for the LSUS Pilots. The Pilots received rings at the basketball game Saturday night for their success during last year's season. The Pilots won Regionals, Super Regionals, and made it to the Final Four in the NAIA World Series last year. The rings were purchased for the

players by the athletic department.

Chancellor Vincent Marsala, Vice Chancellor Marty Albritton, head of athletic council Dr. Terry Harris, and Coach Rocke Musgraves were among those presenting the rings to the players at the ceremony.

And it was a special night for the Pilots to celebrate—they are the first team from LSUS ever to make it to the World Series.

Sports ceremony honors area's outstanding women athletes

BY NEIL CASSARD

Female athletes from all over the state were honored last week during a Recognition Ceremony in the University Center Theater. The 2004 Recognition Ceremony was held Feb. 4 as a part of the 18th Annual Girls and Women in Sports Day.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day is an annual event held in all 50 states that is intended to honor the contributions and achievements of female athletes. The day was created in honor of Flo Hyman. Hyman was an Olympic volleyball player who died in 1986 of Marfan's Syndrome, a hereditary disease that affects the body's connective tissues such as ligaments, blood vessels and the heart. Hyman was known for her efforts to ensure equality in women's sports. This is the third year that LSUS has hosted the ceremony.

The ceremony honored the achievements of female athletes of all ages all across the state of Louisiana. Both individuals and teams were honored for their achievements in sports, ranging from fencing and wrestling to softball and lacrosse. Many local schools were represented, but there were also participants from as far away as New Iberia.

The emcee for the ceremony was local TV personality Sherri Allen, an anchor at KTBS, Channel 3 News. Allen, a triathlete, is also an active volunteer in many community charities. Allen told the theater crowd, "Don't hold your applause. This is about celebration and recognition for you and your

accomplishments."

There were five guest speakers who each gave words of encouragement to the gathered athletes. The first speaker was Tiesha Sanders of Bossier High School. Tiesha is physically handicapped, but is an award winning GUMBO (Girls Uniting Mind and Body) athlete. Sanders' speech drew a standing ovation.

The LSUS Assistant Women's Basketball Coach, Toni Martinez was the second speaker. Martinez encouraged the audience to set goals, and when those are achieved, to set new ones. Other speakers included Margaret Richie, a Byrd High lacrosse player; first-grader Ali Landry and her mother Chantel Broussard, both hearing-impaired athletes; and Barbara Stinson, a senior citizen marathon walker.

The speakers were followed with a cheer from the Caddo Middle Magnet 8th-grade cheerleaders and a dance by the Caddo Middle Magnet Starline danceline.

Then came the recognition of the individuals and teams that the ceremony was dedicated to. Many schools, mostly from northwest Louisiana, were acknowledged, but Caddo Magnet High School had an especially large group.

Dr. Cay Evans, a professor of education, closed the ceremony by telling the audience how much she was inspired by the National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

"Every time we have one of these ceremonies, I leave differently than when I came," she said.

Disney College Program welcomes all majors

BY TASHA HICKS

It's that time of year again. Disney is coming back to the LSUS campus to recruit students to join the Walt Disney World College Program. The presentations are held each semester to recruit students to Orlando to embark on a journey that will take them to Walt Disney World and all its wonders. This semester the theme is "Where Magic Lives."

The Walt Disney World College Program is a paid internship open to all majors. While gaining college credit, students will be placed at a work location somewhere in the Walt Disney World Resort. Students will gain valuable skills while participating in the Disney experience. Guest service, communication and problem-solving skills will be refined through interaction with guests and cast members from all over the world.

The Disney College Program is an excellent way for students to get practical work experience with one of the lead-



ing companies," said Brian Hirsch, director of the career center.

Participants also have a chance to make professional connections through networking with Walt Disney World leaders and fellow cast members.

"The College Program is a way to have fun, as well as learn valuable business skills," said Nicole Adams, senior alumna of the program. "It is a great way to develop your communication skills and confidence."

Along with working with a diverse group of people, participants in the program will live in

SEE DISNEY PAGE 6

CHILDREN AREN'T BORN VIOLENT, BUT YOU CAN CERTAINLY CHANGE THAT.

Whether you know it or not, you could be exposing children to violence every day, by losing your temper with a neighbor. If you're another woman it isn't hard to deal with difficult situations by working on All of us. Not just their parents. So the next time you're around a kid, think about the message you're sending. It could be one of the strongest weapons we have in the fight against youth violence. To find out what you can do, call 1-800-344-3105 or visit www.thecampaign.org. Is there any tool to stop youth violence? Try starting with yourself.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE

the Almagest
wants your feedback

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or call 797-5328

Incubus - A crow left of the murder

BY ERIC PULSIFER

A murder is a group of crows. Geese travel in a flock; crows travel in a murder. Obviously, it's not a name the crows picked for themselves.

Who says music today doesn't have anything to teach the youth? I'm sure you'll go on living a more complete life with that arbitrary knowledge in your arsenal the next time a heated random game of trivia breaks out.

So, it's safe to assume the title refers to a crow that isn't going the way of its birdie brethren, which is strangely inappropriate and fitting at the same time. To say that this album doesn't follow the beaten path of the band's earlier works would be reasonable. However, this crow is too safely tucked under the wing of radio rock to be far left.

The flight path of Incubus is not so different from that of several bands. It begins with a sharp climb as youthful energy causes the band to write more progressively than established bands. The slope begins to dull as the band hopes to make its music more accessible lyrically and sonically. Eventually, the slope turns into a line parallel with the ground as they fly off into the horizon.

zon of obscurity after shedding the idiosyncrasies that made them special in the first place.

So, though this album doesn't quite live up to its predecessors, it's to be expected. If you were a good-looking fellow like front man Brandon Boyd and had more money than you could spend, what would you have to say? No more songs about the struggle to find love, since even if you tried to leave the murder behind, a plethora of groupies would certainly be in hot pursuit. So what's left?

Ah, yes, the same thing every self-indulgent celebrity has to speak on, politics. Please, Hollywood, tell us what you think about the government and the society that enabled you to acquire the ostentatious luxuries you adore! Considering the anti-Bush sentiment, it's possible that the "murder" also refers to the controversial seizing of Iraq and the band's left wing views. Throughout the album the band expresses feeling betrayed and ignored in the wake of a war.

Barring the inclusion of these political jabs, most of the lyrical content remains constant with what could be expected from Incubus: songs chastising the self-righteous and love songs

that portray Boyd as a man, sensitive but confident, who describes his emotions through labored similes and rhetorical questions.

The most noticeable change is Boyd's new use of falsetto, a singing voice with artificially high tones (think '80s rock). Boyd's forced, high-pitch vocals fall short of his midrange but fit the band's sound nicely. Any turntable work is too hidden in the folds of the album's blander instrumentals, nearly abandoning the stellar, floating sounds of earlier albums.

The band unobtrusively drags its feet instead of diving head first into the material, and the songs just seem to blend together. The result is uninspired yet enjoyable, fun but forgettable. The tones are just a little too dull, making it seem the band isn't really trying. Still, Incubus manages to pull it together enough to make this one worth a listen.

Though it's missing that pinch of salt that made previous endeavors excellent, there is enough basic Incubus meat inside to keep fans satisfied until their next serving. Just don't go in expecting lobster; this one's more like frozen fish sticks.



DISNEY

continued from page 5

company-sponsored housing. Participants say the living component is an experience not easily forgotten.

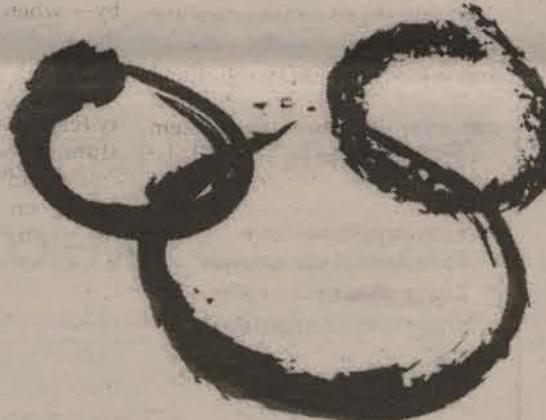
"The program provides educational experiences and the opportunity to meet and live with people from all over the U.S. and world," said Hirsch.

While playing around at Walt Disney World, students are given the opportunity to earn college credit while being away from school. Seven educational courses are offered ranging from marketing to hospitality.

"Walt Disney World is a learning laboratory where students can learn, live and earn while taking courses that the American Council on Education has recommended for credit," said Latonya Johnson, a Walt Disney World recruiter. "We also have advance internships that are directly related to your major and management internships."

To learn more about the program, an information booth will be set up in the University Center during common hour today. Campus Representatives will be on hand to answer any questions and to serve jambalaya.

The Walt Disney World College Program Presentation for LSUS will be held in the University Center Theater on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. Students interested in joining the program can visit <http://www.collegeprogram.com> to fill out an application to bring along to the presentation.



Disney Career Opportunity!

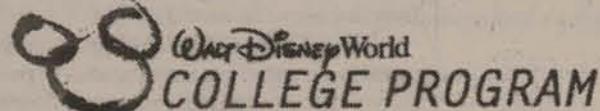
Are you ready to start building your résumé and preparing for your future career? The Walt Disney World College Program gives you the opportunity to take college-level courses for credit, network with Disney leaders and enhance your marketability in today's job market.

As a participant, you'll enjoy a social, multicultural environment with 24-hour secured housing and admission to all four Walt Disney World® Theme Parks. Plus, you'll learn about next-step opportunities with The Walt Disney Company.

This paid program is open to all majors and college levels. Find out more and apply online at wdwcollegeprogram.com.

Presentation attendance is required.

Louisiana State University-Shreveport
Tuesday, February 17, 2004; 6 p.m.
University Center Theater



Dream it. Do it. Disney.

DRUG PANEL
continued from page 1

through Baton Rouge and into Florida. It's very scary. No one even knows about it."

Adams has been to other drug forums but found this one to be the most comprehensive.

George Cazenavette, a New Orleans division special agent for the DEA, was pleased with the number of students who attended.

"This is the best turnout we've had so far," said Cazenavette. "There were probably around 200 (attendees) here at its peak."

The forum urged the audience to confront anyone around

them who might be involved in drugs and urge them to stop.

"Everybody's an educator," said Alfred L. Barrow, a junior general studies major who attended the forum. "It's a great start. We have to start somewhere."

The forum was the third that the group has given to universities in the last two weeks, and more are scheduled throughout the state.

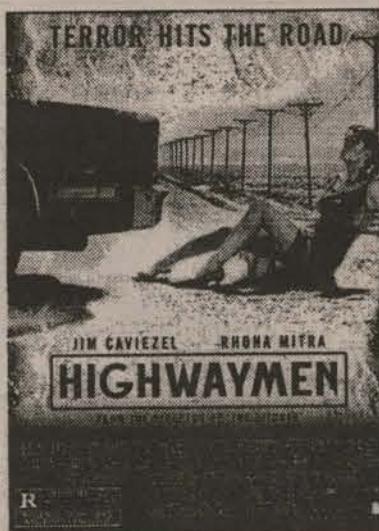
The panel discussions coincide with a nationwide push of drug awareness during the month of February.

For more information about the DEA, visit their Web site at <http://www.dea.gov>.

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Invites You To Attend A Special Advance Screening



Stop by the Almagest office to pick up your complimentary pass.

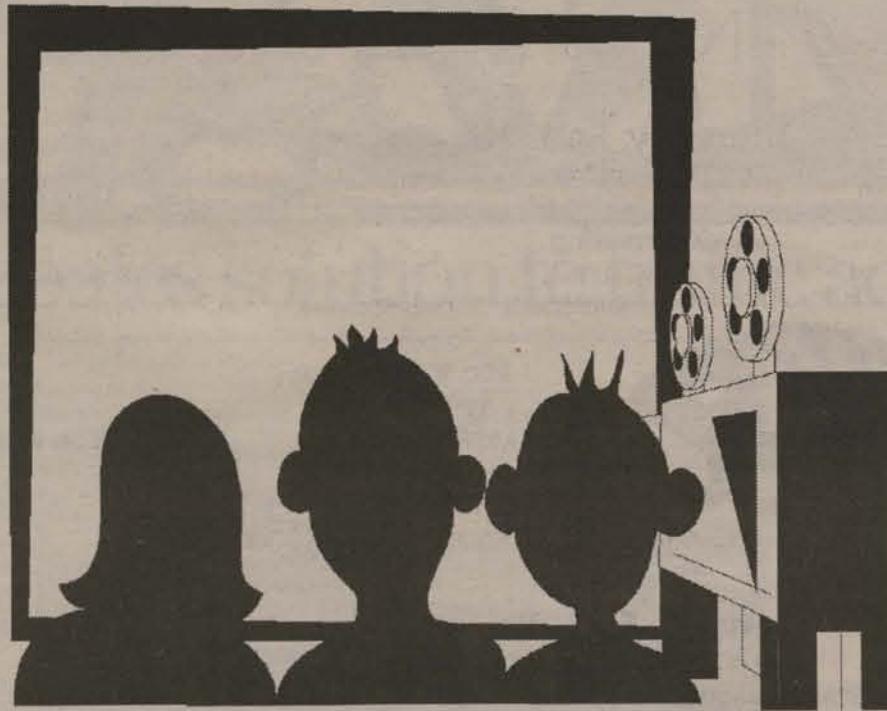
Each pass admits two. One pass per student.

Limited quantities available. No purchase necessary.

The advance screening will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12th at Cinemark Tinseltown in Shreveport at 7:30 p.m.

OPENS IN SELECT THEATERS FEBRUARY 13TH

Jason's Flick Picks



BY JASON LIMERICK

Mystic River

I've got to thank Clint Eastwood for directing this movie. I really appreciate it. I mean not that it's the greatest flick I've ever seen, but it's so damn refreshing to find this kind of story. Hollywood manages to put out about 150 crime dramas a year, and you can sum up almost all of them with the same little formula: tough cop (very attractive...wearing leather) + psycho killings (that for some stupid reason leave clues, like a Bible verse at every scene or a puzzle piece) + a cast of friends and co-workers (one of which will be the killer) + a crazy twist ending (that Ray Charles could see coming) + a tagline like "The hunter becomes the hunted," or "He's turning this into a game" = one repetitively snore-inducing crap fest.

Now Mr. Eastwood has done the unthinkable. He has created a delicately layered crime film that is character driven and focuses not on who did it, but the emotional journey of the three friends involved. And I've got to tell you — it's a painful journey. Sean Penn, Tim Robbins and Kevin Bacon are masterful in making you feel every agonizing minute.

The story centers around three friends who grew up in the same neighborhood in Boston. One afternoon while trying to write their names in the wet cement of a sidewalk, they are approached by a man who tells them he's a cop and takes one of them away. The boy eventually escaped from his captors and the world of sexual and physical

abuse he was trapped in, but the day never really leaves any of them. It picks up in the modern day neighborhood where all of the friends still live — one as a cop, one as a crook, and one as a broken man just trying to get by — when a new tragedy strikes that pulls the bond these men have back into focus. The movie is a clinic in subtly powerful story telling, and Sean Penn gives a stunning example of internal agony and rage that pours out of the screen and latches on to the pit of your stomach. I would definitely see this flick on the big screen because if you wait until video it won't feel the same.

★★★★★

Barber Shop 2: Back In Business

I had almost forgotten why I go to the movies in the morning and preferably on a weekday. Man, I saw this movie on a Saturday night and Oh My God! I'll never do that again. So anyway, all this to say that if my review isn't to your liking, it might be because between the cell phones that light up, the baby's screamin', the ignorant folks yelling at the screen, and the 3,000 coughs, whispers, sneezes and snores that managed to fit into two hours I might have had trouble catching a thing or two. But I'm pretty sure I got it all.

Ice Cube is back and he brought Cedric the Entertainer, Eve, Sean Patrick Thomas and the rest of the Calvin's Barber Shop gang for more hollerin' and hijinks and a battle with the corporate-owned Nappy Cuts. This

movie has its good points. I liked the fact that they gave Cedric a much bigger part in this movie. We get to see flashbacks of his life before the shop and get a little more insight into his character's motivations. It's also fun to see some of the familiar characters back together doing what they did so well in the first Barber Shop — just talking.

But this one is nowhere near as good as the first film. The story starts a lot of potentially good turns and then drops them. Most of the conflict resolution is so convenient you leave the theater felling kind of gypped. An example is when Isaac the white barber decides he's too good for the shop and leaves. You would think that he'd go over to the competition or spend some time thinking about what he's done, but instead he just walks back in like 10 minutes later and apologizes and starts cutting hair again.

Another problem is the new additions. Calvin's cousin Kernal (Kenan Thompson) shows up and does a great job of being spectacularly unfunny. I mean he really, really screws up the flow of the movie and gets no laughs at all. Then there's Gina, played by Queen Latifah, who is apparently an old squeeze of Calvin's and runs the Beauty Shop.

Now right before the movie you see the preview for the new movie "Beauty Shop," so you can see where this is going. Gina's part in the movie has no bearing on the story, and she pops in every once in a while to say something that's supposed to be funny. She also disrupts the flow and it plays just like a commercial ... she might as well have walked in and said, "Go see 'Beauty Shop,' coming this fall!"

Overall the movie is an okay rental but really shouldn't have been made. The first "Barber Shop" was a clever, stand-alone flick that I liked. Trying to turn this into a franchise is just like adding water to an empty ketchup bottle; you might get a little more out of it, but it sure don't taste the same.

★★★★★

Calendar of Events

Feb. 12 - 18 is National Flirting Week

Thursday, Feb. 12

Darwin Day

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SGA meeting

10:30 a.m.

Rec Sports: Billiards Tourney

5 p.m.

Rec Sports: Pilates

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

MCAT Exam Prep

6 p.m.

IM Racquetball

LSUS Basketball @ Southern U. - New Orleans



Friday, Feb. 13

Get a Different Name Day

TEPAR Application Deadline is June 11

Last day to receive 40% refund for dropped courses or resignations

Saturday, Feb. 14



LSUS Basketball @ Xavier University

Sunday, Feb. 15

National Sea Monkey Day

WASHINGTON

continued from page 1

visiting all the neighborhoods and monuments. Students are exposed to parts of Washington that a lot of other tourists don't know about, such as the Hillwood Museum which has the largest collection of Russian decorative arts outside of Russia.

If students go back a second year, they can participate in an internship. Congressional internships are offered in virtually every office in Washington, D.C.

"As a result, many people decide to do graduate work in Washington," said Pederson.

During the first week of the Washington Semester, students sample a daily cultural buffet of nightly concerts, plays, exhibits and ethnic cuisine.

During the second week these events are every other day and become periodic during the rest of the "semester."

Ashley Sanders, a junior history and political science double major, has participated in the Washington Semester twice.

"You learn so much from Washington, D.C.," said Sanders, "because it is where the basis of our country was founded." She said the thing that stands out most to her is the "experience."

"You gain so much from it, because you are out of your normal environment," Sanders said. "You experience D.C. as if you live there."

"It was an eye opener for me," said Skanda Shiva, a senior computer science major minoring in political science. He also participated in the Washington Semester twice.

Shiva, among other students, attended a Supreme Court hearing and got to go to the Embassy to interview an ambassador from Estonia.

"It gave me a broader perspective of what goes on in D.C.," said Shiva. In addition to the academic experience, Shiva said he gained an invaluable experience from being in an ethnically diverse environment.

To sign up for the Washington Semester, or for more information, call the American Studies office at 797-5138, or visit the Web site at <http://www.lsus.edu/lincoln/washington.asp>.

Monday, Feb. 16

President's Day

12 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Drug & Alcohol Education - 1st year

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Basic Billiards: Pool Playing for Beginners

5:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Yoga for Busy People

7 p.m.

Pilots Basketball vs. Milsaps College



Tuesday, Feb. 17

Random Acts of Kindness Day

10:30 a.m.

Rec Sports: Billiards Tourney

10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Interviewing and Job Search Planning - 3rd year GROUP 1

10:30 a.m.

2nd Year- Investment Basics

Thursday, Feb. 19

10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Interviewing and Job Search Planning - 3rd year GROUP 2

10:30 a.m.

2nd Year- Relaxation

5:30 p.m.

LSUS Basketball vs. Dillard University

The Almagest is sorry to report that George, LSUS' famed rooster, was tragically killed on Tuesday, Feb. 10. George had an unfortunate "run-in" with a delivery truck near Facility Services early Tuesday morning. The accident happened very quickly and was unavoidable.